

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3123
GRADE: S-27

TITLE: NURSE PRACTITIONER/PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

DEFINITION:

Under general supervision, provides direct medical care services to adults, children, families and senior clients of various health and human services delivery programs and to adult and juvenile clients in County detention centers; performs physical examinations, laboratory work and diagnostic procedures; develops treatment plans, including prescribing medications; provides health education; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

Not applicable.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Performs physical examinations and records findings in clients' records;
Performs, orders and interprets laboratory work and diagnostic procedures;
Assesses state of clients' health by obtaining medical, psychological and social histories;
Confers with physicians on abnormal results requiring physician's intervention;
Develops treatment plans, including prescribing medications, reviewing plans with clients to assess level of understanding;
Monitors treatments as required;
Refers clients to other health care providers;
Provides health education, counseling and guidance to clients and families;
Develops health education materials;
Develops and presents various training and orientation programs for nursing personnel, health care providers and other agency staff members.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of public health nurse practitioner/medical theory and practice;
Knowledge of various laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures;
Knowledge of effects of prescribed medications and when their usage is indicated;
Skill in obtaining histories and performing physical examinations, laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures;
Ability to assess medical records and results of tests;
Ability to communicate effectively with clients, medical professionals, health care professionals and citizens.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to the following:

Nurse Practitioner

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a bachelor's degree in nursing; PLUS

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A master's degree in public health, community health nursing or other appropriate nursing specialty;
PLUS

Depending upon area of assignment, may require one year of experience as a certified nurse practitioner.

Physician Assistant

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a bachelor's degree in nursing, biology or related field; PLUS

A master's degree from an accredited Physician Assistant Program; PLUS

One year of experience as a certified physician assistant.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Nurse Practitioner

Certification from the Virginia State Board of Nursing as a Nurse Practitioner.

Physician Assistant

Certification from the Virginia State Board of Medicine as a Physician Assistant.

Certification as a Physician Assistant (PA-C) by passing the Physician Assistants National Certifying Exam (PANCE), administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

REVISED	February 17, 2005
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